

REMARKS

The Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 9 and 12 are allowed. Claims 3, 5, 10-11, 17, and 21-22 are amended herein. Thus, Claims 3-12 and 15-22 are pending in the application.

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 9 and 12 are allowed.

Claims 3, 5, 10-11, 17, and 21-22 have been rejected under 35 U.C.S. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention.

II. REJECTION BASED ON 35 U.S.C. § 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH

The Office Action indicated that Claims 3, 5, 10-11, 17 and 21-22 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 3, 5, 10-11, 17 and 21-22 have been amended accordingly, and therefore are allowable. Further, dependent Claims 4, 6-8, 15-16, and 18-20 all directly or indirectly dependent upon allowable claims, and are therefore allowable.

Thus, all of the claims pending are allowable, and therefore, this application is in condition for allowance.

### III. CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, all pending claims are allowable. Accordingly, allowance of all claims is hereby respectfully solicited.

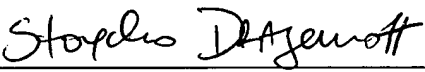
The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

No extension fee is believed to be due. However, to the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee that may be due in relation to this application to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 4, 2005

  
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#### CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

on

Jan 4, 2005 by 